



# History

## NOTES

## SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

The year 2020 has been a historic one, marked with challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The South Dakota State Historical Society had to navigate closing the Cultural Heritage Center with staff working from home for three months starting in mid-March. The museum reopened in June and the other offices' staff all returned by July. Meanwhile, staff at the Archaeological Research Center navigated a move to a new building.

Due to the pandemic and safety concerns, the archives and the museum have seen a decrease in visitation. Nevertheless, our staff adapted to the conditions, developing ways to enhance public outreach to stay connected and available to our members and anyone curious about South Dakota's history. Similarly, the South Dakota State Historical Society Foundation continued its work on the women's history initiative "Her Vote. Her Voice." We also appreciate all the volunteers who stepped up to help our staff in 2020.

This year resulted in a number of society leadership and staff moving on to new adventures. Jay D. Vogt retired as the society director and the state historic preservation officer on Dec. 8, having served in those positions since 2003. In addition, Vogt spent 42 years in the state government, starting with the Secretary of State's office and then moving on to direct the society's Heritage Fund, the former name of the foundation, before leading the society. Three other long-time employees, Research and Publishing Office director Nancy Tystad Koupal, *South Dakota History* managing editor Jeanne Kilen Ode and Archives administrator Ken Stewart, retired this year as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the annual conference in April, but the society still named this year's Governor's Award winners. Michael Runge of

Deadwood and Pat Roseland of Rapid City received Individual Awards. Robert J. Cordts of Madison High School was named History Teacher of the Year. Steven J. Bucklin, professor of history at the University of South Dakota, took home the Herbert S. Schell Award for the best article in *South Dakota History*. Reliabank of Watertown and the Fall River County Historical Society of Hot Springs both won Organizational Awards.

Although the society experienced multiple changes in leadership, our board of trustees remains steady in leading the organization. This year, multiple positions were up for election and members cast their votes this spring. David Wolff of Spearfish, the board's vice-president, was re-elected to one of the at-large positions. Jennifer Winter of Pierre was elected as the professional archaeologist, taking over for Richard Harnois of Leola, who did not seek another term. Gov. Kristi Noem re-appointed Brad Tennant of Aberdeen, the board's president, to another 3-year term. Noem also selected Brian Sandvig of Milbank to an open at-large position. Other trustees include Sean J. Flynn, John D. Fowler, Tom Hurlbert, Laurie Langland, Jon K. Lauck, Peggy Sanders, Rolene R. Schliesman and Francis Whitebird.

As the new director of the society, I take this as an opportunity to promote South Dakota's history to the public and to promote history within the state. We excitedly look forward to seeing our members again in 2021.

### South Dakota State Historical Society Administrative Staff

Benjamin F. Jones, *Director*  
Jeff Mammenga  
Caroline C. Uecker

### South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees

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David A. Wolff,  
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Laurie Langland  
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Peggy Sanders  
Brian Sandvig  
Rolene R. Schliesman  
Francis Whitebird  
Jennifer R. Winter

### Department of Education

Tiffany Sanderson,  
*Secretary*

### Administrative Office:

Cultural Heritage Center  
900 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2217  
(605) 773-3458  
history.sd.gov

## Archaeology Staff

Renee Boen,  
State Archaeologist  
Monica Bugbee  
Matt Busch  
Daniel Byrne  
Erika Cerveny  
Lynn Griffin  
Brian Huot  
Katie Lamie  
Dustin Lloyd  
Lisa Nesselbeck  
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Cassie Vogt  
Jane Watts  
David Williams  
Roger Williams

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Printed on recycled paper.

There were 2,500 copies of *History Notes* printed at a cost of 49 cents per copy.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

During the past year, staff at the Archaeological Research Center completed moving the center from our previous office on Kansas City Street to a new location on East North Street in Rapid City on June 30. Finalized during the COVID-19 pandemic, the move faced restrictions with limited numbers of staff members packing at any one time and everyone wearing masks. Staff members inventoried and packed 6,000 cubic feet of artifact collections. The two Spacesaver storage units were then professionally dismantled and reinstalled with eight new shelving carriages. By the end of the year, all repository records and roughly 4,000 cubic feet of archaeological collections had been re-shelved in the upgraded units.

Throughout 2020, staff conducted 109 pedestrian surveys, two large monitoring projects and seven evaluative testing projects to determine if sites were eligible for the National Register. The center completed a total of 65 pedestrian survey reports, 152 record search reports that did not require pedestrian surveys and two monitoring reports. Staff also conducted projects for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Department of Transportation, Office of the State Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private companies. Curation staff continued work on contracts for the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Black Hills National Forest. The center also established an agreement to provide site and survey data to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

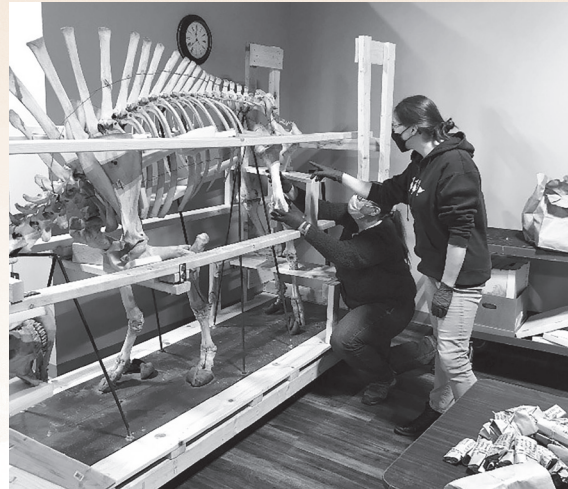
The center reviewed 156 mining permits



*Director Renee Boen stands among the packed materials that staff moved to its new building in Rapid City.*

and issued nine cultural investigation permits for work on state lands in 2020. Staff recorded a total of 25 new Burial Reports representing 17 counties, which resulted in eight field responses. On June 25, we also published one Notice of Intent to Repatriate along with a Notice of Intended Disposition. These documents allow for the repatriation of human remains and funerary objects from Marshall County to representatives of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate.

Over the year, staff recorded 136 new cultural sites and revisited 733 sites, which were



*Staff compare a bison bone from a dig site along the Belle Fourche River against a bison mount.*

documented with updated site forms. We received and added to the library 638 new cultural resource reports and completed 630 record searches. After moving to our new office building, we revamped and modernized procedures for processing incoming records in an effort to streamline and increase efficiency and accuracy of the databases and paper records. Staff is in the process of re-cataloging the research library to improve accessibility.

The center performed outreach with multiple groups. These programs included two Zoom seminars for a University of South Dakota anthropology class, one presentation at the annual meeting of the Fall River County Historical Society, a radio interview on current projects and 17 inquiries from the public regarding artifact identification or other related questions. In addition, the center filled two permanent positions, welcoming Lynn Griffin as an assistant curator and Monica Bugbee as a field archaeologist. Michael Forscha retired from the position of assistant state archaeologist as well.

# ARCHIVES

The State Archives adapted its outreach and programming in 2020 to accommodate online learning and an increased number of remote users. We reached 8,097 people this year through presentations, YouTube video views and consultations. Staff gave interviews with KELO news, the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* and South Dakota Public Broadcasting promoting the “Documenting COVID-19 in South Dakota” project that began this spring to preserve the state’s history related to the pandemic. Archives staff also engaged with the interested public through online office hours and a virtual tour of the archives.

To assist people conducting research remotely, staff undertook multiple digital projects. The Indian Archives Project, Archives Month and Cemetery Records webpages all received updates. In addition, we added an interactive map titled “South Dakota Flood History” to our website. This project was a joint effort among the archives, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District, South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and local communities.

Archives staff added 1,164 images to the South Dakota Digital Archives, bringing the total number of items available online to 70,472, and staff spent considerable time editing metadata to improve search results. To highlight the resources available on the Digital Archives, a selection of recently digitized images of women in South Dakota was displayed in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center. Images from the photograph collections also appeared weekly in the *Pierre Capital Journal*. The number of visitors to the South Dakota Digital Archives

continues to grow.

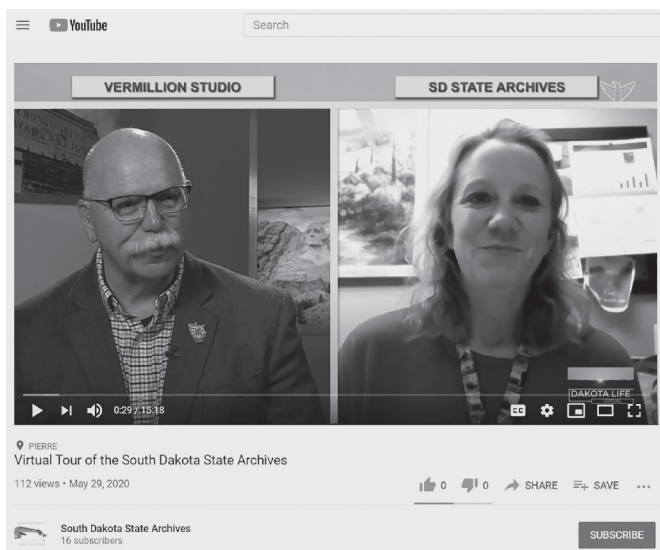
Every year, Archives Month is celebrated nationally in October to increase awareness of the services and collections available at archival repositories. In recognition, the archives held online activities such as scavenger hunts, jigsaw puzzles, quizzes, coloring pages, a live genealogy question and answer session and a presentation about the historic railroad bridge between Pierre and Fort Pierre. The related website included a printable poster and a copy of the governor’s proclamation declaring October Archives Month. The archives also participated in #AskAnArchivist Day on Oct. 7 and Electronic Records Day on Oct. 10 via its social media channels.

The archives received an extension to complete work for a third round of National Endowment for the Humanities grant funding to digitize historic newspapers. Expected to be completed in August 2020, the deadline was extended until June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds allow for one hundred rolls of microfilmed newspapers to be digitized and placed on the Chronicling America website.

The archives received 236 new donations this year, totaling 293.5 cubic feet and 688.51 gigabytes of electronic records. Inmate laborers at the Special Projects Program placed 35,698 entries from the 1935 state census into a searchable database that will appear on the archives website. The library added 85 new books to its collection, and 148.85 cubic feet and approximately 2,077 gigabytes of manuscript and government records were processed and made accessible. We also welcomed Halley Hair as our new research room administrator.

## Archives Staff

Celle Somsen,  
*State Archivist*  
Sara Casper  
Halley Hair  
Virginia Hanson  
Nicole Hosette  
Sarah Kirchman  
Steve Mayer  
Cherri Reed  
Matthew Reitzel  
Kimberly Smith



*State Archivist Celle Somsen and Larry Rohrer with South Dakota Public Broadcasting conduct an online virtual tour of the archives.*

## State Historic Preservation Office Staff

Ted Spencer, *Director & State Historic Preservation Officer*

Liz Almlie

Jenna Carlson Dietmeier

Jess Gregory

Sofia Mattesini

Heather Mulliner

Chris Nelson

Katy Wasley

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 2020, the State Historic Preservation Office had another fulfilling year identifying, recording and preserving historic sites across the state. Beginning this summer, staff assembled a list of statues in South Dakota. The added statues followed three requirements. First, they had to depict a person or personage. Second, they must be found in a visible, public space. Finally, the statue must be in its permanent location. As of December, staff have identified roughly 220 statues that meet these requirements in 49 towns and 38 of South Dakota's 66 counties. The office welcomes the community's input and asks that members send any submissions directly to SHPO@state.sd.us for review.

This year, the National Park Service added eight properties—two private structures and six commercial structures—to the National Register of Historic Places program. These properties include the James and Wilhelmina

The Deadwood Fund Grant Program, now in its 23rd year, awarded seven new grants for preservation projects, for a total award amount of \$111,050. With planned matching funds of \$374,441, we anticipate a total of \$485,491 in public-private investment. The State Property Tax Moratorium financial incentive program certified 16 projects in nine counties. Five were projects continued from prior years, and 11 were new projects with a private investment totaling \$1.971 million. The moratorium is an eight-year state historic preservation property tax moratorium for restoration and rehabilitation made to historic buildings. This program continues to provide property owners with a solid investment in preserving historic residential and commercial buildings in their local communities.

This year, we welcomed three new staff members. Heather Mulliner joined as historic preservation technical specialist. Katie Wasley took over as historic preservation assistant/senior secretary. Jess Gregory came on as review and compliance archaeologist. Our staff of eight preservationists continue their work to preserve the state's history for the future. For more information about historic preservation programs, resources and activities, please visit [history.sd.gov/Preservation](http://history.sd.gov/Preservation) or call (605) 773-3458.



*The National Park Service added the Pickstown Fire and Police Station in Charles Mix County to the National Register of Historic Places in 2020.*

Anderson House in Lily, the Chil and Julia Chilson House in Webster, He Dog Consolidated School near Parmalee, Habicht and Habicht Department Store in Huron, Bryant Masonic Lodge 118, Pickstown Fire and Police Department, Ipswich Masonic Temple and the Sisseton School. Staff are diligently working on nominations for the upcoming year as well. Having a property listed in the National Register is an important honorific designation that can provide eligible property owners with access to financial programs to assist with preservation.



*Anderson-Ridley Barn received a Deadwood Fund Grant to assist with repairing mortar and its walls.*

## MUSEUM

The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society, like so many others, faced unprecedented difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The year started well until the pandemic caused the Cultural Heritage Center to shut down in mid-March and did not reopen until June 15. During these difficult times, our efforts to serve both South Dakotans and a national audience enabled us to maintain our mission to provide education on the state's history. From offering new digital programs for those being home-schooled to installing new COVID-19 public safety protocols when the museum re-opened, museum staff responded strongly and performed admirably.

Through digital programming efforts, museum staff attempted to increase the abilities of parents and teacher to remotely educate South Dakota's youth. The museum provided access to many of the programming compo-

nents from our traveling education kits, including word searches and crossword puzzles. These digital programs are now available on our web page, [history.sd.gov/museum](http://history.sd.gov/museum), under the header "Digital Outreach."

In 2020, staff and outside contractors completed the installation of a new security system. We worked closely with the State Archives, the Bureau of Information and Telecommunication and the Department of Education to ensure that the installation team was safe and that the project did not interfere with public service. The undertaking included adding more than double the number of cameras in the Cultural Heritage Center, providing better security for the museum's collections, staff and visitors.

Staff members also began working on a special project to barcode the museum collections. Barcoding will provide immediate dividends and will allow future museum staff

to track the locations and uses of the museum's now 36,000-piece collection. We also had the opportunity to partner with colleagues at the Smithsonian Institution on a special project involving women's clothing in the museum's collection. Additionally, the staff is creating an upcoming exhibit featuring our clothing collection scheduled to open in the summer of 2021.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the museum's special exhibit "Silent Silos: South Dakota's Missile Range" received an Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History. This award-winning exhibit, which tells the story of the Minuteman Missile project's impact on South Dakota, will remain open for visitors to see through March 2021. Staff opened another temporary exhibition in the Observation Gallery in December. Titled "Where Wild Things Grow in South Dakota," this exhibit looks at the natural history of native plant life in the area.

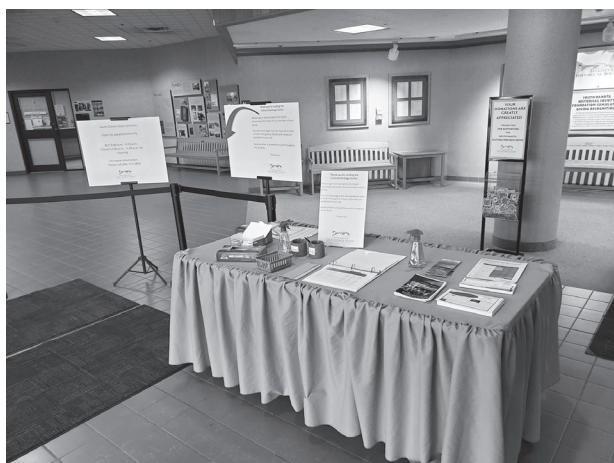
To find out more about our special events in 2021, visit our website [history.sd.gov/museum](http://history.sd.gov/museum) or call (605) 773-3458. We look forward to seeing our members back at the Cultural Heritage Center this year.

## Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society Staff

Jay S. Smith, *Director*  
Corey Christianson  
Peter Kleinpass  
Ronette Rumpca  
Katy Schmidt



*A new temporary exhibit in the Observation Gallery centers on wild plants and their significance to South Dakota.*



*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the museum put precautions in place to keep visitors and staff safe.*

## Research and Publishing Staff

Dedra McDonald Birzer,  
Director  
Michael Burns  
Sarah Dozier  
Cody Ewert  
Jennifer McIntyre

## RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

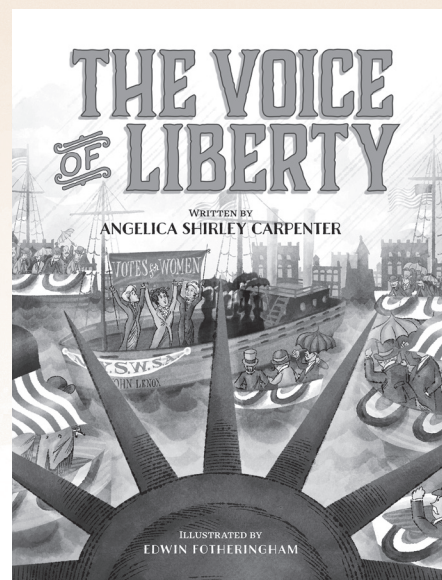
The Research and Publishing Office went through multiple transitions in 2020. Founding director of the South Dakota Historical Society Press, Nancy Tystad Koupal, retired in June and managing editor of *South Dakota History*, Jeanne Kilen Ode, retired in December. Dedra McDonald Birzer was named the new director in October. Sarah Dozier joined as the accounting and order fulfillment assistant in December.

In June, the Western Writers of America (WWA) named the Press its John M. Cleary Homestead Honoree for outstanding support of the WWA and the literature of the American West. It chose the Press for its “dedication to providing readers with a wide range of diverse and inspirational books” about and for South Dakotans.

This spring, the Press released three books. *Fort Union and Fort William: Letter Book and Journal, 1833–1835*, annotated and transcribed by W. Raymond Wood and Michael M. Casler, presents original documents related to the two posts that detail life at the forts and in the regional fur trade. Craig Volk’s *A Dust Bowl Book of Days, 1932* draws on the Great Depression-era diaries of his grandmother Margaret Spader Neises and an unpublished memoir by his mother to showcase women’s struggles and triumphs during that difficult time. A fifteenth-anniversary reprint edition of *Picturing the Past: South Dakota’s Historic Places* by Jay D. Vogt and Stephen C. Rogers, with photographs by Scott Myers, celebrates the historic structures and sites throughout the state.

Three additional titles came out in the fall. *Abraham Lincoln: A Western Legacy* by Richard W. Etulain examines the sixteenth

president’s life and his influence on the American West. In “*All Guns Fired at One Time*”: *Native Voices of Wounded Knee, 1890*, Jerome A. Greene provides new perspectives on the Wounded Knee Massacre through the accounts of American Indians who witnessed the bloodshed. *The Voice of Liberty*, a children’s book by Angelica Shirley Carpenter and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham, highlights how three New York suffragists staged a protest at the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty in 1886 to draw attention to the fact that women in the United States could not vote.



Staff completed editorial work on *The Savior of Deadwood: James K. P. Miller on the Gold Frontier* by David A. Wolff and *George Armstrong Custer: A Military Life* by Sandy Barnard. Design began on a new picture book, *Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bull Head Lodge* by Emily Crawford Wilson and illustrated by Jeanne Bowman. Development for other forthcoming titles and for *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts* continued.

*South Dakota History*, the society’s quarterly journal, completed its 50th year of publication. It featured issues on Benedictine missionaries and woman suffrage in South Dakota and articles on journalist Rose Wilder Lane, politician William T. La Follette and Lakota educator Clarence Three Stars. We also published three issues of the *History Notes* newsletter and maintained the Pioneer Girl Project website, [pioneerproject.org](http://pioneerproject.org).

Follow the progress of current and forthcoming projects on Facebook and Twitter. For a current catalog, visit the Press website, [sdhspress.com](http://sdhspress.com).



# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONORS, 2020

The South Dakota State Historical Society is pleased to receive donations of books, manuscripts, photographs, artifacts and services. The society thanks the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the preservation of South Dakota's heritage through their generous gifts to the archives and museum collections.

Annelle Afdahl  
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Janel Wagner  
Lonis Wendt  
West River History Conference  
Inc., Rapid City  
Jennifer Williams-Curl  
Susan Young-Anderson  
Cari Zocco



*Donors to "Her Vote. Her Voice." met in Rapid City to hear about the progress of the initiative.*

# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS, 2020

Volunteers help to preserve and interpret South Dakota's history as they greet, guide, research and perform other vital tasks for the South Dakota State Historical Society. The society thanks the following individuals for sharing their time and talents at the Cultural Heritage Center, Archaeological Research Center, various archaeological sites and other venues related to special projects.

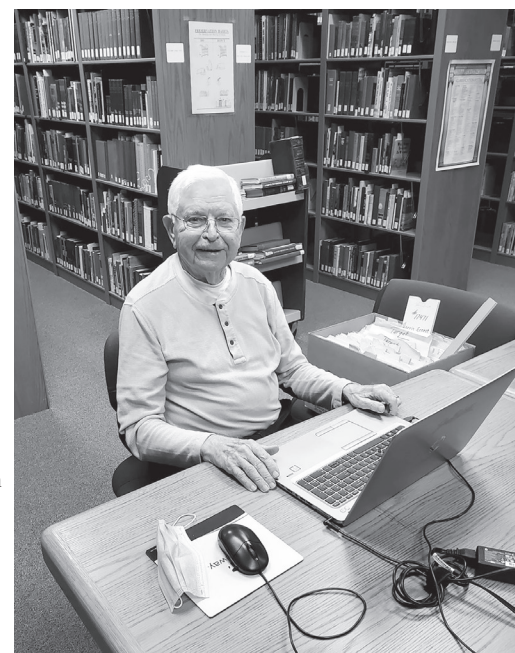
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 Glenna Fouberg  
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 Sara Frankenstein  
 Shirleen Fugitt  
 Jacque Fuller  
 Kristin Gabriel  
 Kevin Gansz  
 Sue Gates  
 Peggy Gibson  
 Blair Gilkyson  
 Tom Glanzer  
 Wanda Goodman  
 Paul Gough  
 Addie Graham-Kramer  
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 Ann Thompson  
 Spencer Thompson  
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 Noelle Tieszen  
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## FOUNDATION

To commemorate the centennial anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving most women the right to vote, Gov. Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation created the Women's Vote Centennial Delegation. Their project, a women's history initiative called "Her Vote. Her Voice.," gave a platform to amplify women's stories as well as provide education on, stimulate dialogue about and raise funds to preserve women's history in South Dakota. Officially kicked off during Women's History Month in March 2020, the people involved faced complications related to the COVID-19 pandemic, causing the cancellation of two years of prior planning and creating new directions for the project. These changes led to digital projects, including interviews of women leaders on podcasts and Facebook Live and websites and social media posts emphasizing stories about women's history.

Despite these struggles, numerous South Dakotans took part in supporting "Her Vote. Her Voice." Through a major marketing campaign and fundraising initiatives, over two hundred volunteers helped the initiative. Their work led to suffragist Mamie Shields Pyle being inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame, the erection of historical markers highlighting South Dakota suffrage sites and the collection of women's artifacts. Additionally, volunteers worked to get the inclusion of women on a statewide honor wall and to create "Her Vote. Her Voice." memorabilia. Their efforts will keep the stories of trailblazing suffragists alive for generations.

The delegation leadership especially supported the initiative. We thank delegation chairwoman Patricia Miller, vice chair-

woman Tracy Saathoff, fundraising and events co-chairs Lauren Forsch and Addie Graham-Kramer and education co-chairs Kelly Kirk and Jan Brockel for their incredible work.

Numerous external partners helped to properly commemorate the centennial as well. Local media outlets shone a light on the initiative and suffrage stories. State leaders commemorated the anniversary by lighting their landmarks in purple and gold. Civil organizations, historians and volunteers shared the suffrage inspired programming and voting messages. Local museums provided exhibitions highlighting the history of the vote and individuals throughout the state.

Multiple corporate leaders provided financial support as well. First PREMIER Bank, BankWest and Lawrence & Schiller enabled multiple aspects of "Her Vote. Her Voice." NorthWestern Energy supported multiple education projects. Cindy Eilers provided an early donation to jump start the campaign. Linda Lea Viken sponsored two of the initiative's podcasts. Mary Chilton DAR Foundation of Sioux Falls and Karen Schreier and Tim Dougherty helped fund the publication of the children's book *Voice of Liberty*. In 2020, donors raised over \$272,000 and moved the initiative closer to the goal of raising \$1 million over the next three years.

Follow the "Her Vote. Her Voice." campaign as we release more information on adopting a women's collection and a related oral history project. We appreciate all of you whose belief in our mission is vital to our success. To donate or learn more, visit [sdhsf.org/donate](http://sdhsf.org/donate). The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Supporters of "Her Vote. Her Voice." gathered in downtown Rapid City to mark the centennial of woman suffrage.

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South Dakota State Historical Society  
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### **South Dakota State Historical Society Annual History Conference: South Dakota Icons**

The 2021 History Conference will be held digitally via Zoom on Friday, Apr. 23 and Saturday, Apr. 24. A registration form will be available at [history.sd.gov/aboutus/eventsanded.aspx](http://history.sd.gov/aboutus/eventsanded.aspx). The sessions will cover topics related to iconic people and places, such as Joe Foss, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and the Black Hills. The audience will be able to ask questions and pick and choose sessions they wish to attend. All questions about the 2021 History Conference should be directed to Jay S. Smith, Museum Director, at [jay.smith@state.sd.us](mailto:jay.smith@state.sd.us) or call (605) 773-3798.